

W8LAP

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LCARA Waveguide



December Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association 2004

*Happy Holidays
From The Officers And Staff
Of the
Lapeer County Amateur
Radio Association*

The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

Absolutely nothing exciting went on this month as far as the treasury is concerned, but I did see the results of LCARA's standing in the Field Day results.

Unfortunately due to lack of participation we were only able to run in class 2A (two transmitters) and that is the toughest class with the most entries almost every year. However we did respectably finishing #248 in a field of 455 stations. That figures out to be about 54% . They gave us credit for only 608 contact but with that we were able to collect 2098 points including bonus points. Conditions were not the greatest for us and although we tried and had some help we were not able to do any better in our sleepless condition.

Field Day is the most interesting and fun experience that amateur radio can give me out side of every day communication and I intend to keep trying to get more LCARA members interested in HF and coming out to try their hand at Field Day.

So until next year I request that you pick up a copy of QST and look at the results for yourself. Perhaps you can come up with ideas and participation to make us show up better in the standings.

On another note listed in QST HAMFEST CALENDAR, the AR Youth Club, Lowell High School is having a ham fest December 18th. Their talk-in frequency is 146.620 with 94.8 hz tone. This is the organization that has been giving our repeater fits up until lately. Maybe the fact that we went to a 100 hz tone encode and they went to a different tone encode is the reason we are not hearing them as much. All those interested enough to listen

The Treas Sez (Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Swap & Shops

Dec 18—Lowell, MI Amateur Radio Youth Club Email: al.eckman@sbcglobal.net

Jan 15—Flushing, MI Amateur Radio and Youth Club <http://www.arayclub.org> email KF8UI@arri.net

Jan 16—Hazel Park, MI Hazel Park ARC <http://www.qsl.net/w8hp/swap.html> email k8ikhz@yahoo.com

The December Meeting would normally be held on Tuesday, December 14th—7:30 p.m. At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.

However, due to exceptional planning by our Vice President, Therese KC8PEZ, there will be a catered Christmas Party at the Countryside Banquet Hall 596 S. Cedar St (S. Van Dyke) Imlay City

There is no charge to paid members and one guest!

Non-LCARA members are \$15 per person [RSVP with reservation/questions to Therese KC8PEZ A.S.A.P.](#)

See Page 5 in this month's Waveguide

The Editor Sez

Hank Kohl, K8DD

As reported in the Waveguide last month— "About six months ago LCARA received an email from the Affiliated Club Coordinator regarding the Michigan Club Newsletter Competition. My wife and I went to the ARRL State Convention in Holland. And came back with first place in the state newsletter competition. You can see the plaque in the LCARA radio room in the EOC. In March the Waveguide goes up against the best from Ohio and Kentucky. We'll see how we do at the Division convention!

This month Waveguide is short because of our trip to Labrador City, Labrador, Canada for the CQ WW CW contest. See the write up starting on Page 3

**Lapeer County Amateur
Radio Association**

P.O. Box 12
Hadley, MI 48440-0012

Officers

President, Bob Erskine, W8RAE.....248-628-3401
Vice-Pres., Therese Long, KC8PEZ..810-724-6790
Secretary, Doug Donner, KC8ZCF...810-798-2237
Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

Committees & Appointees.

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD
Club Call Trustee W8LAP.....Jim Boyer, KD8YX
VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR
Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Two Meter Net Mgr.....Jim Boyer, KD8YX
Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD
Club Historian.....Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI
Public Information Officer...Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI

ARES Repeater Nets

Monday at 9:00 PM on 146.620-
Thursday at 9:00 PM on 442.750+
Mon—Sat at 9:30 PM on 147.300+

Meetings

LCARA meetings are held on the second
Tuesday of each month in the
Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911),
2332 W. Genesee St, Lapeer MI
at 7:30 p.m. local time

Newsletter

Items for the newsletter may be called to the
Editor at 810-721-0708, sent by U.S. Mail (Box
88, Attica, MI 48412), or as an ASCII file, Word
file or hand-written to k8dd@arrl.net
The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each
month.

Contributors to this newsletter:

Doug KC8ZCF Bill KD8VP Therese KC8PEZ

Did you do anything?

Your name and call should be here!

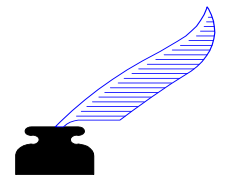
***"I think any amateur who's worth a damn knows
Morse code. I don't have much use for people who
don't even attempt to learn it."***

Joe Walsh, WB6ACU Ordinary, Average Ham (and Rock Legend)

**LCARA Monthly Meeting
Minutes**

**Lapeer County Central Dispatch
Center (911).**

Meeting opened November 9, 2004 at
7:28 P.M. by Club President, Bob W8RAE
with Pledge and introductions.



Guests: Mary Stikeleather, Lapeer County Emergency Mgmt;
Bob WN8EQI

Upgrades and Advances: None

Hospital/SK Reports: Al, K8NOV doing well; Angel
(granddaughter of Ed and Flo Haack) SK; Marge Hetchler, wife
of Bill, KC8SHI, is doing better, but is still fighting an infection.

Presidents Report (Given by Bob, W8RAE): Mary Stikeleather
to give a presentation; Vic Martin, 911 Mgr., will give a
presentation in January

Vice Presidents Report (Given by Therese, KC8PEZ):
Presented Christmas Party information, asked if anyone can
R.S.V.P at the meeting. Party is open to members and a guest.
Non-members are \$15.00. All RSVPs are required by 11/30/04.

Secretaries Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): Accepted as
read. Moved to accept by Charlie, KC8JBK; Seconded by Doug
Sr., K8LSQ

Treasurer's Report (Given by Bill, KD8VP): Accepted as
written with a correction, caught and corrected by Bill, KD8VP.
Amounts given in report were off by \$20.00. Motion to accept
made by Dave, KD8DLW and seconded by Charlie, KC8JBK

Repeater Trustee/Emergency Coordinator Report (Given
by Jim, KD8YX) The PL tone placed on the repeater last
meeting was removed temporarily since not everyone using the
repeater knew about it. The repeater now announces the
100Hz tone. The current configuration allows either strong
local signals w/out a PL tone, or signals with the 100Hz PL to
access the repeater. Jim is having problems with the repeater
messages coming out right and will continue to work on this.
Currently, the squelch is set heavy, but could possibly be a little
heavier yet. Remote squelch is still being worked on. Some

Minutes (Continued on page 3)

Board of Directors Meeting

The Directors' monthly meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of each month at the BK Lounge
at 7:30PM as needed (announced on the W8LAP
repeaters). **All club members are urged to
attend.**

Show your club colors

The following items, all with the LCARA logo, are available to
members. Your name and call sign could be included at no
extra charge.

Tee shirts.....\$12.00
Sweat shirts, hooded.....\$30.00
Sweat shirts, long sleeve without hood.....\$18.00
Golf shirts, grey, yellow or white.....\$19.00
Nylon jacket, windbreaker.....\$45.00
Heavier poplin jacket, flannel lined, quilted.....\$83.00

For XXL add \$2.00 For XXXL add \$3.00

Add MI sales tax for all items.

Call Flo Haack, KC8CAB, or contact her at any club meeting
to place your order.

(Continued from page 2) **Minutes**

holes need to be drilled to mount the board. The battery charger is still not working, and Jim is having problems trying to reach Deltran about it. Bill, KD8VP suggested that a new one be bought. Battery condition is good now. Jim, KD8YX announced he was moving and is looking for someone to take over as Repeater trustee.

Convention Report: Congratulations Hank, K8DD on a first place finish for the "Waveguide" in state wide competition. Good Luck in the Tri-State competition. We now have "an award winning" newsletter.

Presentation: Mary Stikeleather gave an overview of Emergency Management in Lapeer County. She stressed how LCARA is back-up communications for the county and how we have her support. In Addition, she discussed the following items:

The procedure for getting help from the National Guard (Snow Storm of 2001)

Talked about groups that receive federal funding will require NIMS training (basically Incident command Training)

Told a little bit about the Mobile Command Post. Still in the infant stages and stressing that ARES/RACES needs input into the equipment being put into the vehicle

Touched on the 'Hazard Mitigation Plan' that is identifying hazards around the county, the prevention of, and any additional harm that can be caused.

Told about plans to supply the 125+ daycare centers in Lapeer County with NOAA Weather radios.

Break: 8:15 to 8:45

50/50 won by: Doug Jr., KC8ZCF

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:51 P.M. Motion to adjourn made by Charlie, KC8JBK, seconded by Hank, K8DD

Submitted By:

Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF, Secretary

If your e-mail address changes please let KD8VP and K8DD know so you get club email!



HillCraft Electronics 888-520-2002
Just North of I-69 on Van Dyke (M-53)
In the Farmer Jack Plaza

SPECIAL Through December 31, 2004

- On any small parts (the 270 series Radio Shack Part numbers **20% discount!** with your LCARA membership card ~or~ proof of Amateur Radio License.

We now can order Diamond Antennas and accessories.

Check with us for your wireless networking needs and High Speed internet!

(Continued from page 1) **The Treas Sez**

should be aware on the AM of December 18th there will probably be some interference, because someone will transmit without the 94.8 hz tone or with the more common 100 hz tone and we might pick it up on our repeater. Maybe by the time you read this the repeater council will have looked into why they are on our frequency.

Hope to see all you paid up members at the Christmas Party, those that are not paid to date and show up at the party I will welcome even more, because I will not be taking dues that night, only the extra fee required to get entrance to the party. 73 Bill Miller kd8vp

K8DD & AC8W on the road again!

We have gone a lot of places (Montserrat, Saipan, Bahamas, St. Pierre & Miquellon Is., James Bay, St. Kitts & Nevis and now Labrador, Canada) to further our experiences in Ham Radio DX'ing and Contesting. Well, as ole Paul Harvey says Here is "the rest of the story"!

The Monday before Thanksgiving Stan and I took off for Labrador City, Labrador. Port Huron to up past Montreal the first day, got a motel. The next day, Tuesday, we made it to Forestville, QC (NOT the Forestville we know up in the Thumb!). The next morning, Wednesday, we got up about 5 AM, and made it to Baie Comeau, PC (pronounced Bay Como) and turned north on the "highway" to Labrador City - route 389 Nord. This road is mostly paved, but a lot of dirt and for about 550 km is some rugged, beautiful, and barren country. It pretty much goes along the Manicouagan River with 5 hydro-electric plants - Manic-un through Manic-cinq. The last one to the north, Manic-cinq http://www.amxfiles.com/stoneji/97trip/manic_5.jpg is probably at least a mile across the top - one impressive dam!

There are food and gas stops along the highway - gas on the trip had been costing about 83 to 85 cents a litre. Up on route 389 it was 1.09 a litre when you are the only gas station The food was decent, and about 1.5 to 2 times what you would normally expect when you are the only restaurant The roads were clear, about 32 to 35 degrees F although we went through some heavy snow and rain squalls.

As we got close to Labrador City we noticed it was starting to get dark about 3 pm, and by 3:30 PM we had a really neat sunset in the west. We got to the town and were checked into the motel, ate dinner, called VO2NS, Nazaire (Naz) and made it to the HOWL (Hams of

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Western Labrador) club station VO2WL by 8 PM. And the temperature had dropped to around 25 degrees F and the winds were up around 30+ miles per hour. And it was snowing horizontal snow. From the time we crossed into Quebec from Ontario until we got to Labrador - two days - we heard very little or no English - Quebec'ers, I'm sure, know some English, but they won't use it, so it was great to be able to understand what people were saying again!

The two stations we took were set up and on the air by about 10 PM. We took our own equipment along because they have a Yaesu 890 (I think) and their amp (SB201) is broken from another group that used it. And all we really wanted to use was the location and their antennas!

We took Stan's IC-765 and MLA-2500 amp and my Elecraft K2/100 and Ameritron AL-1200 amp along with three laptops for logging and all the stuff to get it running. Stan's green Safari van was pretty well loaded up to the window level.

The call we were using from Labrador City was VO2AAA. The call belongs to a friend of ours, Dave Goodwin, VO1AU, from St. Johns, Newfoundland. Dave helped introduce us to the local hams and offered to let us use his Labrador call. Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday, up to the contest, we made several hundred QSO's and made sure we didn't have too much interference between the stations. Thursday evening I was on 160, using the trap dipole and I noticed that every now and then the K2 would blank and take several seconds to recover. Then I heard an arcing

(Continued on page 5)

**Be RadioActive—
Participate!**

**Holiday / Christmas Party
December Free**
For LCARA members!

December 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM | 7 | 8 | 9 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM | 14 LCARA Christmas | 15 Party | 16 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM | 21 | 22 | 23 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM | 24 | 25 Merry Christmas |
| 26 | 27 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM | 28 | 29 | 30 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM | 31 | |

IT'S A CHRISTMAS PARTY

Who's Invited: LCARA members, spouses and friends,

Hams from Lapeer and surrounding counties.

Where: Countryside Banquet Hall

596 S. Cedar St. (S. Van Dyke), Imlay City

When: Tuesday, December 14, 2004, 6-9:00 PM

Dinner will be catered by Countryside Banquet Hall.

A cash bar will be available.

Cost: No cost to dues paying members & one guest/spouse per member.

\$15 per person for additional persons and non-members.

RSVP with reservation/questions to Therese KC8PEZ by Nov. 30, 2004

Contact: kc8pez@yahoo.com or (810) 523-8450 to reserve your seat.

(Continued from page 4)

sound in the tuner, and when I disconnected the coax I got a pretty good jolt. I dropped the coax and heard it start to arc from the center conductor to the shield - loudly! I looked outside - it was about 20 degrees F, very high wind and snowing - snow static on the antenna developing high levels of voltage, so I clipped a ground wire on it and there was no more 80/160 that night!

When the CQ WW CW contest started Friday evening, it was great! One station running - making QSO's as fast as possible and the second station looking for multipliers on other bands. The conditions were quite good, although the station is located on the edge of Lake Wabush, there are houses to the north on the other side of the road. And they all use electric heat, so with a thermostat most likely in every room there are thousands of little transmitters! And the electric heaters are not the electrically quietest operating heating devices. So we had a pretty decent line noise, especially on 160 and 80 meters. Plus there is a lot of iron ore mining in the area which adds to the line noise.

The end result of the contest was 3272 QSO's in a total of 105 zones and 323 countries for a total of 3,048,216 points. Pretty decent for a two person, high noise and high latitude operation. The contest was over at 2359 UTC (8 PM local time) and by about 9:15 Stan and I were in O'Flannery's Pub & Grill having our post contest dinner and celebration.

Monday morning we left Labrador City about 8 am and started down the Trans Labrador Highway headed back to Baie Comeau, QC in snow and wind and 25 degrees F. When we crossed into Quebec there was a large sign

with lights for each of the stops along the highway. Two of them were flashing, so we turned into the town of Fermont, a mining town to look for the police station to see if they could tell us what they meant. Fermont was built by the Quebec Mining Company and is right across the border from Labrador City, but a world away culturally, the Quebec iron mining city of Fermont is a strange but surprisingly pleasant experiment in town planning. Almost all of the city's commercial establishments, including a hotel, stores, and restaurants, plus a large apartment complex, are located in a single kilometer-long building that serves as a windbreak for the attractively laid-out suburban-style neighborhood on the other side. Despite their close proximity in the middle of the wilderness, Fermont and Labrador City have different languages and time zones. We never did find the police station, but it was very interesting to see the differences between the layout of Labrador City and Fermont.

So we headed down the "highway". By noon we were past Manic-cinq and ate lunch at the next rest stop, 130 miles, or 220 km, from Baie Comeau, QC - about 4 1/2 hours to go! In the next hour the roads got snow covered, although we saw several snow plows it wasn't too bad. We got into some steep grades and going through some S curves hit some real slick pavement and somehow ended up sliding into a 2 foot high snow bank on the side of the road.

To be continued at the Christmas party
Or at the regular January meeting!

2004-2005 L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

CALL SIGN: _____ NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY ,STATE, AND ZIP: _____

PHONE : _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

SKYWARN NO.: _____ RACES NO: _____

ARES MEMBER YES___ NO___ E-MAIL ADD.: _____

ARE YOU AN A.R.R.L. MEMBER: YES___ NO___

L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP IS \$12.00 PER YEAR, RENEWABLE EACH YEAR ON **OCTOBER. 1ST.** FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$20.00. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$4.00. IF YOU WISH AN AUTODIAL NUMBER FOR THE REPEATER THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$3.00 CHARGE. Financing available.

Lapeer County Amateur

Radio Association

P.O. Box 12

Hadley, MI 48440-0012